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Prime Minister

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

For some reason

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in full

AND TO INFO IMMEDIATE N I O (B) , UKMIS NEW YORK AND
 PRIORITY INFO WASHINGTON.

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YOUR TELNO 74 (NOT TO ALL): MEETING WITH TAOISEACH

MS

1. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THESE INSTRUCTIONS. I SAW THE TAOISEACH
 AT THREE O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON AND THE CONVERSATION WAS ALMOST
 ENTIRELY ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE FALKLANDS CRISIS.

NORTHERN IRELAND

2. THE TAOISEACH MADE THE USUAL NOISES ABOUT THE FAILED POLITICAL
 ENTITY. SECONDLY, HE SAID THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE ANGLO-IRISH
INITIATIVE WHICH HE HAD LAUNCHED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS NOW
 QUITE DEAD BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE TO CONSULT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT
 BEFORE PUTTING FORWARD DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS. HE WENT ON TO SAY
 THAT THE PREVIOUS COALITION GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO WARNED US
 THAT OUR PROPOSALS WOULD BE UNWORKABLE. I WAS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS
 POINT QUICKLY BY POINTING OUT THAT PROFESSOR DOOGE'S LETTER WAS BASED
 ON THE WRONG ASSUMPTION THAT OUR PROPOSALS WOULD BE IN SOME WAY
SIMILAR TO THE CONVENTION REPORT OF 1975. I WENT ON TO TELL MR
 HAUGHEY THAT I HAD SEEN PROFESSOR DOOGE ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE WHO HAD
 CONFIRMED THIS. WHILE ACCEPTING THIS, HE CRITICISED THE PROPOSALS FOR
 HAVING NOTHING IN THEM OF AN IRISH DIMENSION. I SAID HE REALLY MUST
 STOP CRITICISING IN THIS WAY AND SEE THE MATTER MORE FROM THE
 POINT OF VIEW OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND,
 WHO HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT DIRECT RULE COULD NOT
 CONTINUE INDEFINITELY AND WHAT THE PROVINCE WAS SUFFERING FROM WAS
 LACK OF ANY POLITICAL LIFE WORTH HAVING. THE PROPOSALS, WHICH
HAVE YET TO PASS THROUGH PARLIAMENT, PROVIDE COPPER-BOTTOMED
 GUARANTEES FOR THE MINORITY COMMUNITY THAT IF THERE WERE NOT
 PROPER CROSS-COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS THEN THEY
 WOULD NOT HAPPEN. I ALSO MADE THE POINT IN PARAGRAPH FIVE OF
T U R ABOUT THE PARLIAMENTARY TIER BUT HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SUGGEST
 THAT THIS MIGHT BE AN ALTERNATIVE. I ADDED THAT WITHOUT AN ASSEMBLY
 THERE WOULD NEVER BE ANY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO TAKE PART
 IN ANYTHING. THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION WAS CONCLUDED BY HIS
 SAYING THAT WE MUST AGREE TO DIFFER.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

3. I SAID THAT THE TABLING BY THE IRISH REPRESENTATIVE OF A
RESOLUTION WHICH THE IRISH KNEW WE COULD NOT ACCEPT, FOLLOWING ON
 HIS RADIO INTERVIEW ON SUNDAY CRITICISING IN SUCH EXTREME TERMS THE
 DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS, HAD MEANT OUR RELATIONS HAD TAKEN A
 CONSIDERABLE TURN FOR THE WORSE. THIS NETTLED HIM AND HE SAID THAT

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ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS WERE OFTEN TAKING CONSIDERABLE TURNS FOR THE WORSE. HOWEVER, THEIR ACTIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WERE CONCERNED TO PREVENT A MORE UNWELCOME PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION. HE THREW IN THE OLD POINT ABOUT IRELAND BEING A SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY NOT BOUND TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD. I SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF OUR EVER CONTESTING IRELAND'S TAKING AN INDEPENDENT LINE, BUT IT WAS A PECULIAR SITUATION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN 3 AFRICAN NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS HAD TO AMEND AN IRISH DRAFT RESOLUTION TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO US. FURTHERMORE, NO ONE COULD SUGGEST THAT UGANDA OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN OR CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH WERE IN ANY SENSE NOT INDEPENDENT. IF THE IRISH HAD THOUGHT THEY WERE BEING HELPFUL, WHY DID THEY NOT ASK US FIRST? THIS LED TO SOME RATHER INCONCLUSIVE TALK ABOUT THE DEGREE OF THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR TWO MISSIONS IN NEW YORK. I DID NOT EXPECT TO GET ANYWHERE ON THIS TOPIC, BUT AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO MAKE THE POINTS IN WHAT WAS A RATIONAL AND COHERENT CONVERSATION.

4. WE ENDED OUR TALK BY AGREEING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PUSHING FORWARD WITH OUR VARIOUS CROSS-BORDER AND EAST-WEST PROJECTS AND CONTACTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE AIIC. I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT CROSS-BORDER SECURITY COOPERATION WAS NOT MENTIONED NOR WERE ANY COMMUNITY ISSUES.

5. I SAID THAT I WAS GOING TO ENGLAND TOMORROW AND WOULD PROBABLY BE HAVING TALKS AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE THANKED ME FOR KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND HOPED I WOULD COME AND SEE HIM ON MY RETURN.

6. COMMENT. OUR CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE JUST AS EARLY INDICATIONS WERE COMING IN THAT THE OPPOSITION LOOKED LIKELY TO RETAIN THEIR SEAT IN THE DUBLIN WEST BY-ELECTION. CONSIDERING THE ENORMOUS EFFORT MR HAUGHEY HAS PUT IN TO THE CAMPAIGN, THE NEWS MUST COME AS A CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT. BUT HE DID NOT LET THIS SHOW, NOR DID HE MENTION IT. I AM NOT SURE WHAT IMPRESSION I MADE AND ANY EFFECT CAN ONLY BE SEEN IN WHAT HE DOES IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS REGARDS OUR AFFAIRS. AT THE LEAST I THINK HE KNOWS THAT OUR RELATIONS WILL NEED TIME AND EFFORT TO PUT RIGHT. IF SO, I SHOULD LIKE TO THINK HE WILL DO NOTHING TO MAKE THEM EVEN WORSE.

FIGG.

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